Fare hikes

4281. SHRI M. A. BABY:
SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the railways were utilising most of its funds for the upliftment of upper class comforts while it has been hiking second class fares; and

(b) what is the percentage of earnings by upper class and second class fare hikes in the last two financial years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Percentage of earnings estimated through fare hike during the years 1991-92 and 1992-93 are as under:—

| Class | Year | Percenage of earnngs raised through hike in fares. |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Upper Class | 1991-92 | 22% |
| | 1992-93 | 13% |
| 2. Second Class | 1991-92- | 78% |
| | 1992-93 | 87% |

Railway bridge over Yamuna behind the Red Fort

4282. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when the Railway bridge over Yamuna behind the Red Fort was constructed;

(b) whether any life span of this bridge was fixed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the life-span of this bridge has already expired;

(e) whether railway journey over this expired bridge is very risky to lives of travelling passengers;

(f) whether Government propose to take some action in this regard immediately; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) In 1866.

(b) No particular life span has been specified.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Setting up Divisional Offices in U.P.

4283. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of divisional offices set up in Uttar Pradesh with places of location and criteria for setting up of such offices;

(b) whether Government propose to set up some more divisional offices in Uttar Pradesh during 1993 and 1994;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Uttar Pradesh is being covered under two Zonal offices of Railways;

(e) whether Government propose to set up one more Zonal Office in Uttar Pradesn for the convenience and efficiency of administrative work; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) There are eight Divisions whose headquarters are located in the State of Uttar Pradesh namely, Allahabad, Lucknow and Moradabad on Northern Railway, Izatnagar, Lucknow and Varanasi on North Eastern Railway Jhansi on Central Railway and Mughalsarai on Eastern Railway. Railway Divisions are set-up taking into consideration the size, workload, growth and pattern of traffic and other operational and administrative requirements consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency.

(b) and (c) In view of severe resource constraints, the Railways are not considering creation of any Division for the present.

(d) the State of Uttar Pradesh is presently served by the five Zonal Railways; namely, Central Railway, Eastern Railway, Northern Railway, North Eastern Railway and Western Railway.

(e) and (f) Prevailing financial constraints preclude the possibility of going in for any new zonal railway headquarters for the present.

Withdrawal of Provident Fund by Railway Employees

4284. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of employees in Board's Office as well as in Railways have not made any withdrawal from Staff Railway Provident Fund during the more than 25 years' service;

(b) if so, the number of such employees cader-wise separately under the Railway Board and Railway-wise;

(c) whether Government propose to grant an incentive of additional rate of interest or any award for their excellent habit of saving to encourage other employees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) and (b) No such statistics are being maintained.

(c) and (d) In regard to grant of incentives to employees for non-withdrawal from their SRPF account, the Ministry of Railways follow the instructions issued from time to time by the Ministry of Finance who are the nodal Ministry in such matters. At present no such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

Trains between Guntur and Macherla

4285. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many trains are plying between Guntur and Macherla on either side in South Central Zone;

(b) whether it is a fact that the number of trains are reduced after gauge conversion;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what are the reasons for reduction in the trains on this route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) to (d) Two pairs of broad gauge trains are running on Guntur-Macherla section of South Central Railway. Prior to conversion of the section into Broad Gauge on 1-5-1990 three pairs of Metre Gauge passenger trains were run. Since Macherla is located on a branch line taking off from Nadikude, the existing traffic is mainly upto Nadikude and hence, due to lack of traffic justification the third train was cancelled. Train service between Guntur and Nadikude, however, has not been reduced after conversion.